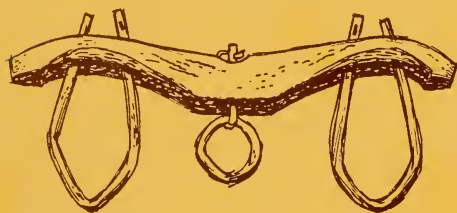


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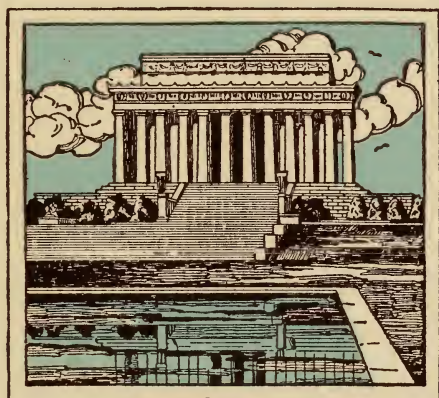
*An Athenian Temple in Memory
of a Great American*



JAMES P. MATTHEWS, JR.


THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

*An Athenian Temple in Memory
of a Great American*



By

JAMES P. MATTHEWS, JR.



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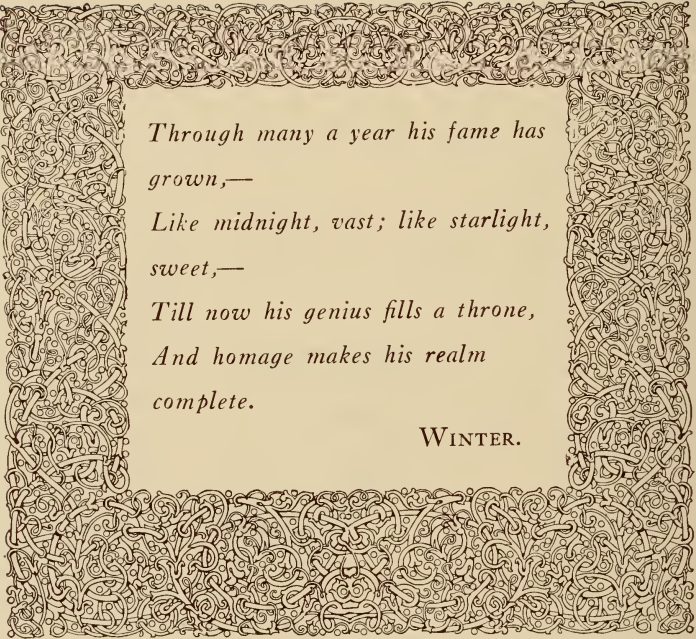
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827 MILLS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



*Through many a year his fame has
grown,—*

*Like midnight, vast; like starlight,
sweet,—*

*Till now his genius fills a throne,
And homage makes his realm
complete.*

WINTER.

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Lincoln Rec.

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL



HE last echoes of rolling drums and thundering guns have ceased and civil warfare has become but a page of American history. The broad Potomac River, once the boundary between warring sections, pursues a peaceful course to the waters of the bay. Sectional jealousy and petty differences forgotten, sons of the South now join with sons of the North in rendering patriotic devotion to a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

¶ On the southern shore of the river, high above the surrounding country, stands Arlington, the home of the gallant warrior-gentleman, Robert E. Lee. To the north is a temple of shining white erected to the memory of the kindly statesman



and emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. Bridging the waters between is a great memorial bridge, uniting and commemorating. ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

¶ Time has removed all barriers, and greatness, regardless of section, receives its due of praise and homage. Lee does not belong to the South nor Lincoln to the North; both belong to America and it is fitting that thousands of Americans from all sections should visit these shrines to honor two great Americans. ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻





EARLY ATTEMPTS TO SECURE A LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND
THE BILL PROVIDING FOR A COMMISSION



REATNESS of character is never fully appreciated while a man lives. Thought and work which live after a man has passed on serve to keep alive the memory and to emphasize the ability of one who in life was not accepted at his true worth.

There is no more striking example of this fact than Abraham Lincoln, a martyr for American liberty and unity. ❀

¶ In the face of overwhelming opposition from friends and foes alike, he pursued a course which his conscience and his superb foresight told him was right and which history has justified fully. Rising above petty jealousy, sacrificing personal popularity, he engraved his image on the hearts of thousands who followed him and who derived benefit from his efforts. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The shot of an assassin was necessary to bring to his fellow Americans the realization of his greatness. A nation mourned his death and paid belated tribute to his genius, but it was not until the passage of time showed the true measure of his greatness that any effort was made to perpetuate his memory. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ About a year after the death of Lincoln a few scattered admirers sought the erection of a memorial in his honor, but political strife and lack of unity made it impossible to accomplish their purpose. However, the idea was firmly entrenched in the minds of a few contemporaries and they only awaited a propitious time to bring their plans before the public. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

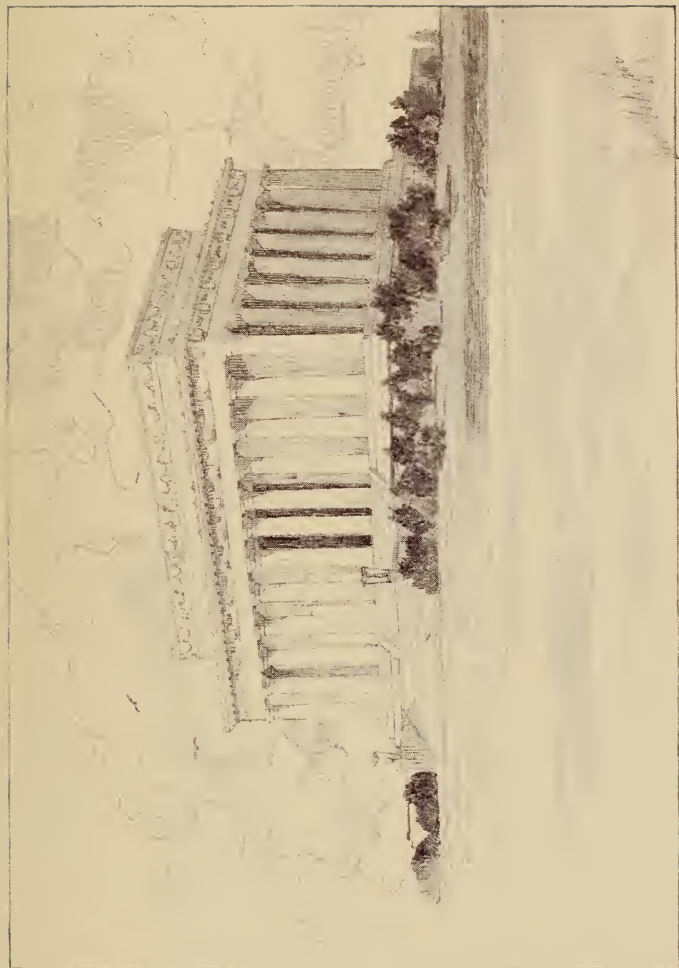


¶ In eighteen sixty-seven it seemed that this time had come. On March the twenty-ninth an act of Congress was passed incorporating the Lincoln Monument Association. Electing James Harlan as president and Francis Spinner, the United States Treasurer, as treasurer, the Association enthusiastically began plans for a monument to Mr. Lincoln. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The foremost American sculptor of the day, Clark Mills, was asked to submit plans and designs for a monument to the Association. Mr. Mills had previously executed a number of statues for the state of South Carolina, the statue of Andrew Jackson which stands in Lafayette Square in Washington, a statue of Washington in the same city, and the statue of Freedom which crowns the dome of the Capitol. Mr. Mills submitted the plans and the Association accepted them, but they were never used. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ In order to finance the proposed monument, the Post Office Department was authorized to collect funds through the postmasters of every city and town in the country. These funds were to be sent to the Postmaster General in Washington and turned over to the Association by his office. However, a waning public interest and weakening enthusiasm by the Association caused the collapse of the movement before sufficient funds were collected to begin the work and the Lincoln Monument Association passed out of existence. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ Shelby M. Cullom, Senator from Illinois, made several unsuccessful efforts to have bills passed by Congress for the erection of a memorial or monument to Lincoln. Mr. Cullom was the son of a pioneer who went into Illinois and became a close friend of the Lincoln family. The son



THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL



inherited the friendship of his father for Abraham Lincoln and was an ardent supporter of the first movement for a monument to the memory of the martyred president. ❀

¶ In 1901 Mr. Cullom introduced a bill that sought to secure federal action for a memorial project, but the bill was referred to the Committee on the Library which made an unfavorable report and caused the bill to be tabled.

¶ Undaunted by several unsuccessful attempts, Mr. Cullom in 1902 introduced a bill which for a time seemed to bring favorable results. This bill provided for a Commission consisting of members of Congress and members of the Cabinet, appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars for the work of the Commission, and stipulated that a report of the work should be made to Congress as soon as possible. This bill passed both houses and was signed by the President and it seemed that the efforts of Mr. Cullom were to be successful. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The Commission held its first meeting on April the twenty-fourth, nineteen hundred and four, and elected Senator Wetmore, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, Chairman of the Commission. Representative McCleary was authorized to make a trip to Europe to inspect memorials and monuments there and to gather information and suggestions for the proposed memorial. He was instructed to make a report to the Commission not later than the first of December, nineteen hundred and five, but his report was not submitted until January, nineteen hundred and nine. By that time changes in the members of Congress had taken place and interest in the project had declined so that no further action was taken by the Commission. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



¶ Representative McCall and Senator Dick each attempted to secure the passage of bills with regard to a Lincoln Memorial, but their efforts were futile and their bills were tabled. Insufficient public interest and a policy of procrastination on the part of Congress and those entrusted with the work of a memorial made it impossible to obtain any real results. However, the introduction of numerous bills in Congress and the untiring efforts of a few zealous admirers of Lincoln were gradually awakening a general interest in the project and hastening the time when a successful movement might be undertaken. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ Senator Cullom in his efforts to bring about federal recognition of the great service rendered to his country by Lincoln, enlisted the aid of Joseph G. Cannon, another contemporary of Lincoln and a man of recognized prominence and ability. Together these advocates framed a bill which if passed would be certain to bring about the long sought result. After studying their work carefully and seeking to have it meet every possible contingency, they decided to introduce it to Congress. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ On December the thirteenth, nineteen hundred and ten, Senator Cullom introduced the bill and the efforts of the two men brought about its passage. Amendments were made in both houses but the bill was passed and sent to the President who approved it on the ninth of February, nineteen hundred and eleven. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The act is as follows:

(Public—No. 346)
(S. 9449)



AN ACT TO PROVIDE A COMMISSION TO SECURE PLANS
AND DESIGNS FOR A MONUMENT OR MEMORIAL
TO THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

¶ *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That William H. Taft, Shelby M. Cullom, Joseph G. Cannon, George Peabody Wetmore, Samuel Walker McCall, Hernando D. Money, and Champ Clark are hereby created a Commission, to be known as the Lincoln Memorial Commission, to procure and determine upon a location, plan and design for a monument or memorial in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, subject to the approval of Congress.

¶ SEC. 2—That in the discharge of its duties hereunder said commission is authorized to employ the services of such artists, sculptors, architects, and others as it shall determine to be necessary, and to avail itself of the services or advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, created by the Act approved May seventeenth, nineteen hundred and ten. ❀

¶ SEC. 3—That the construction of the monument or memorial, herein and hereby authorized, shall be upon such site as determined by the commission herein created, and approved by Congress, and said construction shall be entered upon as speedily as practicable after the plan and design therefor is determined upon and approved by Congress, and shall be prosecuted to completion, under the direction of the said commission and the supervision of the Secretary of War, under a contract or contracts hereby authorized to be entered into by said Secretary in a total sum not exceeding two million dollars. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



¶ SEC. 4—That vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be filled by appointment by the President of the United States. ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥

¶ SEC. 5—That to defray the necessary expenses of the commission herein created and the cost of procuring plans or designs for a memorial or monument, as herein provided, there is hereby appropriated the sum of fifty thousand dollars, to be immediately available. ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥

¶ SEC. 6—That said commission shall annually submit to Congress an estimate of the amount of money necessary to be expended each year to carry on the work herein authorized. ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥

¶ SEC. 7—That all Acts (or parts of Acts) inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥

Approved, February 9, 1911.



THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL COMMISSION AND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE MEMORIAL

HE foregoing Act did what no other Act had done. It made the proposed project a government undertaking; it provided funds to begin the work at once; it appropriated sufficient money to build a memorial in keeping with the greatness of the man to be commemorated, and it placed the President of the United States, William Howard Taft, upon the Commission to give it dignity and to prevent procrastination and waning of interest. Furthermore, the Act named as members of the commission the men who in the past had been the most untiring in their efforts to obtain a memorial. By placing such men as Cullom, Cannon, Wetmore, and Taft upon the commission the Act guarded itself against failure, for these men were capable of trust in carrying out any enterprise and had proven their interest in the task assigned to them. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The first meeting of the Lincoln Memorial Commission was held in the Executive office at the White House on the fourth of March, nineteen hundred and eleven. President Taft was elected Chairman of the Commission and Henry A. Vale was named Secretary. The task to be performed was discussed and a few plans were made for beginning the work. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ At subsequent meetings of the Commission actual plans for the memorial were developed. The aid of the Fine Arts Commission was enlisted and the Lincoln Memorial Commission found it of the greatest value. The site for the



memorial was recommended by the Fine Arts Commission and at its meeting on February the third, nineteen hundred and twelve, the Lincoln Memorial Commission approved the recommendation. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❏ This site is on the axis of the Capitol and the Washington Monument and is in view of Arlington, the home of Robert E. Lee, across the Potomac River. Thus the Memorial looks toward the home of the outstanding southern leader in the war waged during the presidency of Mr. Lincoln and recalls the services rendered by the former President at that time; it faces the monument to the man who was the father of the country which Mr. Lincoln served, and it is in direct line with the Capitol of the Union which Mr. Lincoln successfully preserved. No other site could have approached this one for appropriateness nor could another have equalled it for beauty, since it is in the section of the city which contains the most beautiful of the city's parks and the finest of the public buildings. ❀ ❀ ❀

❏ The site having been selected, Mr. Harry Bacon of New York was selected as the architect for the Memorial building. Mr. Bacon had already created many beautiful structures in New York city and was looked upon as one of the foremost American architects. His selection has been proven a happy one by the masterpiece which he conceived and helped to develop. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❏ It was decided that the real memorial to Lincoln should be a statue of the man himself. After careful consideration of a number of sculptors and their work, the Commission decided upon Mr. Daniel French to execute the colossal statue planned for the interior of the building. Mr. French had studied both in America and in Europe and had achieved



a number of masterpieces which were praised for their extreme naturalness. He had previously executed "The Minute Man of Concord," "Peace and War," a large group now at the Custom House in Saint Louis, and a life size statue of Governor Chase of Michigan for the memorial gallery at Washington. His statue of Mr. Lincoln, however, was to prove the best work of his career. ❀ ❀

¶ The sculptor and the architect having been selected, the Commission and the Secretary of War then turned their attention to the awarding of contracts for the actual building of the Memorial. Owing to the fact that the Memorial was to be erected on reclaimed ground, the task of building strong foundations and constructing an edifice was an enormous one. Bids were called for and on February the twelfth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, contracts were awarded. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The ground for the Memorial was broken without any ceremony and the actual construction was begun on March the twenty-seventh, only six weeks after the contracts were awarded. As the work progressed and the Memorial gradually arose from the foundations, it was found that the original appropriation of two million dollars would not be enough to complete the work. Public interest having been stimulated by the work of the Commission, a request for additional funds was speedily granted and the necessary amount to carry the work to completion was appropriated. ❀

¶ From the time of its creation until the Memorial was completed, the Lincoln Memorial Commission held thirty-one meetings. Every member performed the duties assigned to him with the greatest efficiency and the construction and plans moved smoothly along. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



INTERIOR OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL



¶ Several vacancies occurred in the Commission and were filled, as provided in the Act, by Presidential appointment. Senator Cullom, whose untiring efforts were instrumental in the erection of the Memorial, did not live to see the completion of his work, nor did three others of the original Commission. These men and the Commission merit the deepest appreciation of Americans for their great services and for the successful accomplishment of the stupendous undertaking.

¶ The membership of the Lincoln Memorial Commission from its creation until the completion of the Memorial was as follows:

William Howard Taft, <i>Chairman</i>	1911-1922
Shelby M. Cullom.....	1911-1914
Joseph G. Cannon.....	1911-1922
George Peabody Wetmore.....	1911-1921
Samuel Walker McCall.....	1911-1922
Harnando D. Money.....	1911-1912
Champ Clark	1911-1921
Thomas S. Martin.....	1912-1919
Joseph C. S. Blackburn.....	1914-1918
John Temple Graves.....	1920-1922
Thomas R. Marshall	1921-1922
Nathan B. Scott.....	1921-1922
Henry A. Vale, <i>Secretary</i>	1911-1922

¶ In addition to the members of the Fine Arts Commission who aided in the construction of the Memorial by their suggestions and recommendations, the Commission received invaluable aid from members of the United States Army, and especially from members of the Engineering Corps, who were detailed to aid in the problems of construction. It is

MEMORIAL



fitting that the public should know the names of the men who served as executive and disbursing officers and under whose direction the actual work was done. ✱ ✱ ✱

They were :

Colonel Spencer Crosby.....	1911-1913
Colonel William W. Harts.....	1913-1917
Colonel C. S. Ridley.....	1917-1921
Lieut.-Colonel C. O. Sherrill.....	1921-1922





THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL



LEVEN years after the creation of the Lincoln Memorial Commission, the Lincoln Memorial was completed. May the thirteenth, nineteen hundred and twenty-two, was set as the date for the dedication of the building and its presentation by the Commission to the United States government. An elaborate ceremony was planned with speeches by government officials and a flag ceremony by the veterans of the Union Army. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❀ Amplifiers were installed in order that the large number of spectators expected to witness the dedication might hear the program. Fifty thousand persons were present for the ceremony, at which Chairman Taft presided, and a number of Civil War veterans were in attendance also. ❀ ❀

❀ The invocation was offered by Dr. Radcliffe, pastor-emeritus of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington where Mr. Lincoln worshipped during his term of office as President and where he sought spiritual aid when discouraged by the tide of events which seemed destined to overthrow the nation. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❀ Mr. Edwin Markham, acclaimed by many as the American Poet-Laureate, read a copy of his famous poem "Lincoln, the Man of the People" which he had especially revised for the occasion. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❀ Perhaps the most impressive part of the ceremony was the flag ceremony in which a thin line of blue-clad Union veterans who had served with Mr. Lincoln as their Commander-in-Chief, participated. To them the Memorial



meant more than to any one of the fifty thousand spectators since they had loved and followed the man to whose honor the building was erected. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❑ Because of the action of Mr. Lincoln in abolishing slavery and giving the opportunities of citizenship to countless colored people, Professor Robert R. Moton, a teacher at the most famous of colored schools, Tuskegee Institute, was asked to make a short address in keeping with the spirit of the ceremony. This he did and in a remarkably beautiful speech extolled the virtues of the martyred leader. ❀ ❀

❑ Chairman Taft made a speech of presentation for the Lincoln Memorial Commission and President Harding, in the main address of the day, accepted the gift for the government, praising the work of the Commission and all those engaged in the construction of the Memorial, and setting forth the high character of the Emancipator. Ex-President Woodrow Wilson had been requested by the Commission to participate in the Dedication Ceremony but was unable to do so on account of illness. He sent a note commending the Commission upon the accomplishment of the great task entrusted to it. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

❑ At intervals throughout the program the United States Marine Band rendered patriotic selections in keeping with the ceremony. The entire ceremony was appropriate and inspiring and it was with a sense of satisfaction that millions of Americans realized that Abraham Lincoln had at last received the homage and honor his brilliant service deserved.





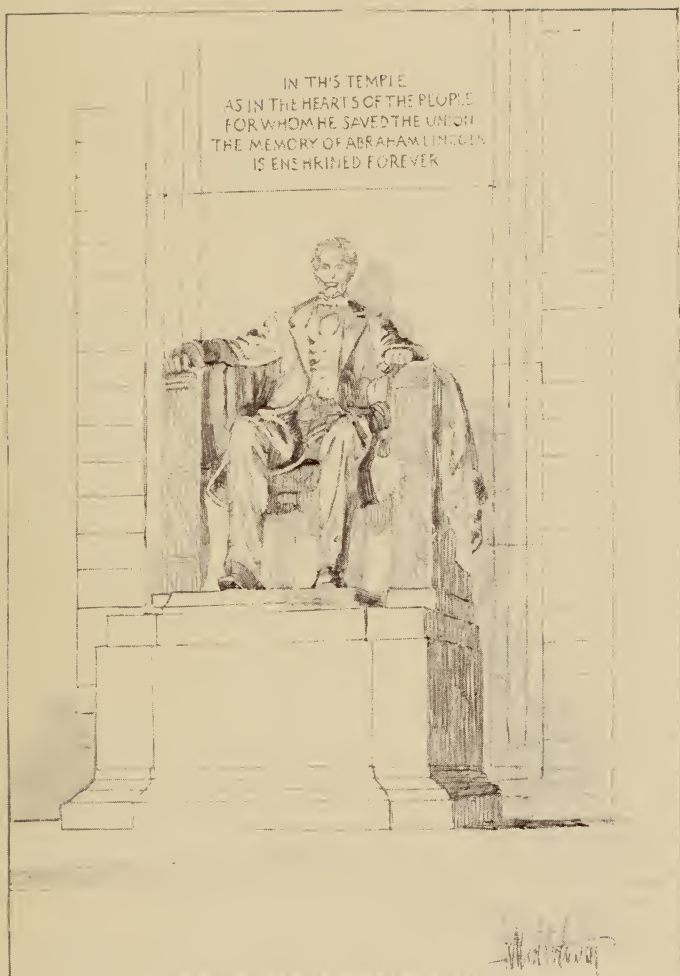
THE MEMORIAL BUILDING



APPROACHING the Lincoln Memorial, one is reminded of the ancient temples of Athens. The colonades bear out this impression and mark the building as one of the most beautiful in Washington. The exterior represents the union of the states, the frieze above the colonades bearing the names of the thirty-six states of the Union at the time of Mr. Lincoln and the walls above bearing the names of the forty-eight states existing today. The structure is of the Greek Doric order and is built of the finest quarried marble. ❀ ❀

❑ The building stands on a terraced plateau which is one thousand feet in diameter at the base and seven hundred and fifty-five feet in diameter at the top where the building stands. The terrace has on the outer edge four rows of trees, separating the grounds of the Memorial from the grounds of Potomac Park and lending a pleasant landscape effect to the grounds. Between the Memorial and the Washington Monument are two reflection pools patterned after those of the Taj Mahal and reflecting both the Monument and the Memorial. The exterior of the building and the landscaping makes the Lincoln Memorial one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in the world. ❀ ❀

❑ The interior of the building is divided into three chambers by Greek Ionic columns fifty feet high and five or six feet in diameter. The center chamber, which one enters after mounting the steps leading to the entrance of the Memorial, is the largest and the most impressive of the three chambers. Directly facing the doorway is the statue



THE LINCOLN STATUE



by Daniel French and the visitor cannot but marvel at it.

¶ The statue is nineteen feet high and also nineteen feet in width at the point of greatest width. Mr. Lincoln is represented as seated, his arms resting on the arms of the chair and his hands clasping the ends of the chair arms. The naturalness of the posture and the variety of emotions which the sculptor has portrayed in the face of the statue, make one wonder at its realness. Almost all of the elements of the great character are portrayed, strength, mental power, sympathy, kindliness, humor, and determination being shown in the features. ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

¶ The head is slightly bent as though Mr. Lincoln were musing and he sits facing the Capitol of the country he loved and served. One has to study the statue from all angles to appreciate fully its great beauty and to realize the remarkable qualities which Mr. French has portrayed so accurately in his work. ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

¶ Above the statue is carved this inscription:

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

¶ The chamber in which this magnificent statue rests, is sixty feet wide and seventy-four feet in depth, while the two small chambers at each end are sixty-three feet wide and thirty-eight feet deep. On the wall at the end of the



A CORNER IN THE
LINCOLN MEMORIAL



chamber to the right is engraved the Second Inaugural Address while on the end wall of the chamber to the left is engraved the Gettysburg Address. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ Above these two Addresses are mural paintings typifying the principles which guided Mr. Lincoln, freedom and liberty, justice and law, immortality, unity, fraternity, and charity. These paintings are the unassisted work of Jules Guerin and are of such beauty that they cannot fail to catch the eye and captivate the emotions. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ The silent halls of the Lincoln Memorial create a quiet atmosphere of reverence which impress all visitors and make the Memorial truly a shrine to the memory of Mr. Lincoln. Every detail of the building, both of the interior and of the exterior, portray dignity and beauty, and make the building a real temple in honor of the great American. ❀ ❀

¶ It is true that Mr. Lincoln is enshrined in the hearts of countless fellow Americans but until they have visited the Lincoln Memorial, have seen the beauty of the building, and have marvelled at the statue and studied it until they have taken in every detail, they cannot appreciate fully the majestic Memorial which a grateful people have erected, nor the influence which this man exercised that could reach across time and grasp the heartstrings of all who visit his shrine. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

¶ It well may be said that the Lincoln Memorial is a beautiful tribute to the greatest American of recent times.



LINCOLN

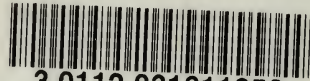
A man of the common people,—
Whom the Lord made many because he
loved them much,
And gave them wisdom to place
Worth above the accident of rank or
birth,
Character above station,
Right above might,
Honor and justice above gain;
And gave him, with martyrdom
More tragic in life than in death,
Place with the highest of any age or
nation,—
A man unique in suffering,
In human sympathy,
In humor and homely wisdom,
In keen understanding of human nature,
And in selfless service to God and men.

—*George L. Chandler.*

HERE ENDS THE HISTORY OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AS WRITTEN BY JAMES T. MATHEWS, JR., THE COVER DESIGN, DECORATIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS THE WORK OF FRANCIS K. MACNERHANY, PRINTED BY THE CASLON PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL ART SERVICE CO., WASHINGTON, D. C., IN THE YEAR OF 1934. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE SECURED FROM THE NATIONAL ART SERVICE CO., 827 MILLS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C. COMPANION BOOKS TO THIS VOLUME ARE AVAILABLE, THE TITLES OF WHICH ARE: THE HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON, THE ROMANCE OF OLD CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VA., WHERE WASHINGTON WORSHIPPED AND THE HISTORY OF ARLINGTON, THE OLD HOME OF GEN. AND MRS. LEE.



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